WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Proposal to set up Medicinal Plant Board

4872. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Medicinal Plant Board to promote, trade in medicinal herbs.

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been cleared.

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(d) when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is processing a proposal to set up a National Board for Medicinal Plants.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The proposal is yet to be cleared by the Government.

(d) No time frame has been stipulated for setting up the Board.

Agriculture Extension Centres

4873. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to revitalise the Agriculture Extension Centres;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the direction; and

(c) the State-wise details of the number of Agriculture Extension Centres and the number of new Agriculture Extension Centres proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There is no Agricultural Extension Centre set up by Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No such Centres are proposed to be set-up. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras

(KVKs) which are continued to be supported. The activities of the KVKs include technology evaluation and assessment of its impact through frontline demonstration and on farm testing and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel. The statewise details of Kendras are given in attached Statement. (*See* below).

The ICAR has a proposal to strengthen the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations to take-up the additional funcitons of KVKs in 53 districts in the country where there is no KVK. The statewise details are indicated in Statement-II (*See* below)

Besides, State Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs) each in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab is being strengthened under World Bank assisted Naitonal Agricultural Technology Project to improve extension management skills of senior State functionaries.

Statement I

Distribution of KVKs in different States

S.No.	States / UTs	Total
1.	A & N Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	4
5.	Bihar	21
6.	Delhi	1
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	10
9.	Haryana	12
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
12.	Karnataka	11
13.	Kerala	9

S.No.	States / UTs	Total
14.	Lakshadweep	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	20
16.	Maharashtra	23
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	2
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	12
22.	Pondicherry	2
23.	Punjab	10
24.	Rajasthan	31
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	16
27.	Tripura	2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	30
29.	West Bengal	9
	TOTAL	261

Statement II

District Identified for Strengthening of Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) to take the Additional Functions of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)

S.No.	States	No. of Districts Identified	Name of Univesity/ Institute	Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	ANRAU Hyderabad	1. Nellore
				2. Prakasam
				3. Adilabad
2.	Assam	6	AAU Jorhat	4. Naogaon
				5.Karbi Anglong
				6. Lakhimpur
				7. Karimganj
				8. Kamrup
				9. Tinsukia

S.No.	States	No. of Districts Identified	Name of Univesity/ Institute	Districts
3.	Bihar	3	RAU, Pusa	10. Rohtas 11. Bhagalpur
			Bau, Ranchi	12. Santhal Pargana
4.	Gujarat	3	GAU	13. Surat 14. Rajkot 15. Junagarh
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3	HPKVV, Palampur	16. Lahaul & Spiti 17. Bilaspur
			YSPUH&P	18. Solan
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	SKU&AT	19. Kargil
7.	Karnataka	8	UAS, Bangalore	20. Shimoga 21. Tumkur 22. Mandya 23. Bangalore (Rural) 24. Chitradurga
			UAS, Dharwad	25. Gulbarga 26. Uttar Kannada 27. Bijapur
8.	Kerala	2	KAU, Thrissur	28. Kottayam
			CPCRI, Kasargod	29. Allepay
9.	Madhya Pradesh	4	JNKVV, Lablpur	30. Morena 31. Hoshangbad 32. West Nimar (Khargaone) 33. Sagar
10.	Maharashtra	4	PKV, Akola	34. Yavatmal 35. Chandrapur
			KKV, Dapoli	36. Raigad Roha
			MAU, Parbani	37. Osmanabad
11.	Orissa	2	OUAT, Bhubneshwar	38. Bhadrak 39. Navarangpur
12.	Punjab	1	PAU, Ludhiana	40. Ropar
13.	Rajasthan	1	RAU, Bikaner	41. Sriganganagar
14.	Tamil Nadu	3	TNAU, Coimbature	42. Kanyakumari 43. Puddukkotai 44. Ramanad

S. No.	States	No. of Districts Identified	Name of Univesity/ Institute	Districts
15.	Uttar Pradesh	8	GBPUAT, Pantnagar	45. Nainital
			CSAUA&T, Kanpur	46. Mainpuri
				47. Mahoba
				48. Kanpur-Dehat
			NDUA&T, Faizabad	49. Gorakhpur
				50. Faizabad
				51. Maharajganj
				52. Sonbhadra
16.	West Bengal	1	BCKVV, Mohanpur	53. Coochbehar

Technology Mission to improve the quality of Cotton

4874. SHRI. C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched cotton technology mission to improve the yield and quality of cotton in India;

(b) if so, what are the arrangements being made to attract the farmers into cotton cultivation;

(c) whether the State of Andhra Pradesh sent a proposal to Government to set up a Cotton Board on the lines of Tobacco and Tea Boards; and

(d) if so, what is the follow up action by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve the production and quality of cotton, the Government of India have recently launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in various cotton growing states. The Technology Mission on Cotton comprises of four Mini Missions. The Mini Mission-I is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for the development of area specific techologies including high yielding varieties/hybrids. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is the nodal agency for the implementation of Mini Mission-II through the modification of the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme for enhancing production of cotton. The Mini Mission-III for the development of market infrastructure and Mini